

Remarks

This Amendment has revised the application such that it is now believed to be in an allowable condition for reasons discussed below.

Claim 1 has been revised to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 which has been cancelled. Furthermore, claims 3, 7, 9 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of cancelled claim 2. All of the remaining dependent claims 3-17 thus depend from claim 1.

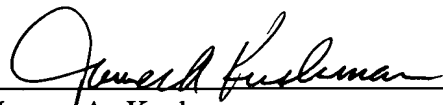
Since all of the claims now incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 as discussed above, the only rejection at issue is the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the disclosure of the PCT publication WO 96/02456 Flux in Figure 1 in view of Flux's Figure 10. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Figure 1 of the '456 Flux reference does not disclose any rotary members which each include a notch as claimed together with a slipper member and a movable link assembly that moves between blocking and release positions "without movement of the rotary members away from each other along the common axis of rotation. Furthermore, in Figure 10 of the '456 Flux reference, the location 350 is not a notch for receiving the elongate support element as claimed since the starwheels 301 and 302 (i.e., the rotary members) must be moved away from each other from their use position shown in Figure 8 in order to receive the elongate member 390 as illustrated in Figure 10. Thus, even if one modifies Figure 1 of '456 Flux in view of its Figure 10, there still is no provision of the claimed invention.

The manner in which the movable link assembly blocks and releases the notches with respect to the elongate element without movement of the rotary members away from each other in cooperation with the attachment that prevents unintended release of the load from the device as now claimed is thus not taught by the '456 Flux patent, nor is there any teaching or suggestion of such structure in the United States Patent 5,245,931 Cuny.

It is thus respectfully submitted that this application is in an allowable condition such that it is appropriate to hereby respectfully solicit its allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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